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Henry Hastings Hall to Sarah Bracher, 15 August 1859

Woongong WA

Aug 15th 1859

My dear Sister

I send you a few hurried lines not for the sake of news but to tell you how strange I think it that four months ago I wrote to *you*, *aunt* and *Shake* to acquaint you with our father's death; by the last mail S answered me and whether you are still in ignorance of that melancholy event I cannot determine, but I must say if any letters from me have come to hand on that subject you are much to blame for not replying immediately; on that occasion I troubled myself to write very fully — feeling how anxious you would naturally be to have all particulars I hope you have my *May* letter & yet I could almost hope you have the excuse of not receiving it, for I know of nothing else that would exonerate you from a gross breach of the laws of fraternity and etiquette. I shall sell Fanny's cattle next month, at the same time with my fathers, stock is fetching a much better price than when I arrived here - After the debts are paid you will come in for a share (with the rest) of the personal property but I suppose in the event of tables chairs or three legged pots falling to your share I had better turn them into cash for you — of course I do not mean any little things of our mothers those you will receive in due course. I have taken out letters of Administration and had to find *bond* myself in £800 and two sureties in £400 each for the proper fulfilment of the law regarding the Estate of an intestate. Young T Peel is a bankrupt — principally attributable to neglect of business. Kate Leake was married in England on the 16th June to Capt Steere whose brother married a miss Roe so its all up with me in that quarter. I have arranged with the Govt to pay the old debt & they have very handsomely remitted the interest which alone would have amounted to more than £200. I hope you are more comfortable than when you last wrote and are becoming reconciled to a bush life, I must write dear Fanny as soon as I have less to think about. With love to Georges senr & junr and all intermediate I remain

My dear sister

ever affectly

H H Hall

I shall likewise give Aunt a scolding